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SIRIM IR delving into energy storage

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ASILA JALI
KUALA LUMPUR

SIRIM Industrial Research (IR) is actively pushing for energy storage technology as part of its research and development (R&D) focus area within energy management.

Senior vice-president Mohd Azanuddin Salleh said energy management is an "exciting" area to look into as the company will delve deeper into various components that make up the segment.

"We still do not fully use solar energy in the country because of intermittency issues where some days we get full sunlight and some days we do not.

"Solar energy will not work by itself and that is why we need a storage device so we can store the energy and fully utilise it.

"This is why SIRIM is pushing for energy storage in particular," he said during an interview with the New Straits Times.

Azanuddin said a joint venture with an industry player is underway for the company to install solar panels on six roofs within its complex.

"Hopefully this will come into fruition by the middle of next year," he said.

As a whole, Azanuddin said SIRIM IR is the forefront of research, technology and innovation in Malaysia that provides total technology and market driven solutions to various industries.

“To date, our R&D, technology innovation & commercialisation are focusing on the following six activities/sectors namely climate change and renewable energy, food security, medical and healthcare, productivity and logistic and transportation.”

MOHD AZANUDDIN SALLEH
Senior vice-president



The company brings added value to the government, industry and society through the adoption of technological advancements to support economic growth, enhance industries competitiveness and eventually to improve the quality of life.

"Our most prominent presence is where we nurture small and medium-scale enterprises with solutions for technology adoption and upgrading by partnering with various local and international partners, for instance, the Fraunhofer Institute in Germany,

Hitachi Japan, amongst others," said Azanuddin.

As the R&D sector is constantly evolving, Azanuddin said the company's focus areas are divided into three main verticals.

Besides energy storage, it is also focused on smart manufacturing and life sciences.

"We constantly keep ourselves updated via continuous training, education, and market surveys to understand the needs of the players in the global environment.

"It is a challenge, but we must start somewhere," he said.

ESG TAKES CENTRE STAGE

The way SIRIM Industrial Research has operated since its establishment has always been ahead of its time.

Azanudin said the company had shifted from playing a role in adding value to Malaysia's predominantly agribased economies in the 70s to making headway into digitalisation in the 90s.

As environmental, social and governance (ESG) elements are picking up

momentum in the country, he said the company's major strategies on financial and technological will consider ESG factors and how to tackle issues on climate change, social inequality, and corporate governance which can affect the long-term performance.

This is done by ensuring alignment with the National Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and aspirations, he said.

"We are in the midst of finalising our own ESG policy.

"We had always incorporated ESG in our operations but never enshrined them in proper policies so we are moving towards that now," he said.

Besides, he highlighted that the company's efforts are centred on aligning the R&D solutions to account for climate related as well as environmental risks.

The current and future contribution will continue to address the national and global scenario on water, energy, emissions, food scarcity which have significantly impacted everyday life and economy, said Azanuddin.

"To date, our R&D, technology innovation & commercialisation are focusing on the following six activities/sectors namely climate change and renewable energy, food security, medical and healthcare, productivity and logistic and transportation.

"Specific modules will incorporate ESG risk considerations in the technology, financing, and investment decisions," he said.

He added, the company is also investing in its workforce as it plans to increase the number of researchers from the current 20 to 50 by 2027.

Moving forward, to attract potential partners in working with Sirim IR towards becoming a RM1 billion company in 2027, Azanuddin said the company will leverage on frontier technology adoption and digitalisation in solving industry wide problems including those involving the environment.

"One of the sectors is the manufacturing industry.

"As data is now moving into the digital sphere, there is a growing significance of digital platform application in the industry for increased productivity and efficiency.

"We can offer a manufacturing execution system (MES) to fulfil the need of SME companies towards adoption of Industry 4.0 which is a cloud-based and real-time monitoring system to digitalise production monitoring and management process," said Azanuddin.

SIRIM IR developed an application of Solar Thermal Technology for the Sri Muara Fisherman Association in Sarawak.





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KEMENTERIAN TENAGA, SAINS, TEKNOLOGI,
ALAM SEKITAR DAN PERUBAHAN IKLIM

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SUMMARIES

SIRIM Industrial Research (IR) is actively pushing for energy storage technology as part of its research and development (R&D) focus area within energy management. Senior vice-president Mohd Azanuddin Salleh said energy management is an “exciting” area to look into as the company will delve deeper into various components that make up the segment.